

THURSDAY
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Substance abuse prevention forum April 24

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An open forum to discuss substance abuse prevention will be held from 5 to 7 p.m., April 24,

Newport Recreation Department and sponsored by Communities United for Substance Abuse Prevention.

"By working together we can let people know the hazards of substance abuse," CUSAP coordinator Liz Hennig said.

The idea behind the forum is to exchange ideas between schools, businesses, town offi-

cials and residents and law enforcement about how to prevent, identify and treat addictions in youth.

"We want to give them the skills and ability to make change," Hennig said. "We can only do this as a community."

Hennig coordinates a portion of an \$11 million grant given by the N.H. Department of Health and Human Services. Sullivan County received about \$500,000 to fund a three-year program working to develop partnerships within the community.

"You have to give kids reasons to keep them off these substances," Hennig said.

The CUSAP is intended to bring people and programs together to help influence the choices of younger people to make and help them become caring and responsible adults.

Hennig said she plans to spend about \$100,000 on new programs this year, but the scope of those programs will depend on the needs and wants of the community.

"The ultimate goal is to develop community leadership," Hennig said.

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